THE CINEMATHEQUE

The regular Bay Area showcase for personal and avant-garde films.

1980 **Shows on Thursdays and Sundays at 8:00 PM at the San Francisco Art Institute, 800 Chestnut St., S.F.** **Donation $2.** **Free coffee.** **For information call 586-8486.**

SUNDAY, JUNE 1

CLOSED MONDAYS & other films

BOB GARDINER IN PERSON

In addition to being an Academy Award winning filmmaker Bob Gardiner as a draftsman, muralist, painter, inventor, photographer and all around-renaissance man. He sings original songs and plays piano accompaniment to his various films. His live performances are described as, "A rare blend of transfigurations, piano-orchestrations metamorphenomenonsensical sculptimations, illiterations, lusty illustrations, mulched media, ping ponged polemical poultices of political, erotic petty sensationalism, unravelled in our decade..."

TUESDAY, JUNE 3

L.A. TRIPTICH

LOUIS HOCK IN PERSON

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA is a 60 minute tryptich film which will be shown on three specially built syncronous projectors outdoors on a screen which will permit viewing from either side of the screen. SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA concerns the myth of the place south of the Tehachapi and north of Tijuana with images ranging from sky scrapers in Los Angeles to beach vignettes, Cal Worthington TV commercials to a cornucopic fruit stand, highways from the air to neo-Spanish homes. The work conceptually begins with the ideas behind postcards, a positive geocentric celebration of local uniqueness. This is expanded to include the motion inherent both in the medium and the Southern California culture.

This screening will be free to the public and will begin at 9:00 pm.

THURSDAY, JUNE 5

JESUS CURES SIN & other atrocities

HERBERT JEAN DE GRASSE IN PERSON

Herbert Jean de Grasse has been making films for 15 years. His madcap tales are quite funny. He tries to be and is. This evening's program will include the following films:

FILM WATCHERS (1974) 5min. - A candid lecture to the audience by Herbert Jean de Grasse.

TWO FILMS I NEVER MADE (1973) 4min. - Minimal cinema at its funniest.

THE ORGANIC VAMPIRE (1973) 7min. - An actual prizewinner. Melvin the vampire repents his evil sins and becomes a vegetarian.

JESUS CURES SIN (1980) 7 min. - The first premiere for this evening. Just because you're suffering from sin and only Jesus can cure you, doesn't mean there's only one Jesus who can cure you.

FILMING BAZARROV (1980) 3 min. - The second premiere for this evening. The cast of my film THE SALIVATION OF PROFESSOR BIZARROV get caught playing themselves.

DOCTOR PETRONIUS SEDUCER OF WOMEN (1974) 55min. - In 1895 Nicolas Petronius a physician believed that sex would cure people of every disease known to man. So he practiced that cure and created total havoc in victorian whereeveritis.

THE DEMISE OF DOCTOR PETRONIUS (1978) 17 min. - The further adventures of Doctor Petronius where his cure actually makes him an enemy who decides to do him in.

FRIDAY, JUNE 6
Open Screening
Bring your own

SUNDAY, JUNE 8

THE DISSOLUTION OF VISION AND THE SEARCH FOR PICTURES

TONY CONRAD IN PERSON

FILM FEEDBACK
4-X ATTACK
ARTICULATION OF A BOOLIAN ALGEBRA FOR FILM OPTICALS (excerpt)
ENLIGHTENMENT THROUGH EXPERIENCE
MICKEY MOUSE
LUCIA
AQUARIUM
THE PHONOGRAPH

I didn't think of my friend as just a movie. Of course as a child the "friendly" neighborhood movie could as soon as not turn and hit me with a bone-jarring shock. Like it, my childhood friend might shock me too: could I really burn my brother alive on my friend's advice? Eventually you learn most of their poor needs invite you in, for a stab in the back. Yes, their flat life on TV.

The films I want to know now won't wait for you, they live at their own places, they boycott causes we forgot to feel for. "You jerk. You romantic. You forgot how to find me. You still bring home garbage. You throw out your love on such dumb stories." I have a beer with my film. "You don't remember which city we met in last, do you?" The city had seemed so unimportant; I was listening, watching, I went through thoughts and visions which only we could bring together to share.

I'm reading a book, remark something peculiar I saw; "Oh that. Well." My friend refracts and amplifies my exact thoughts. Our personalities wore new and different clothes each time we met. With others, if it was our needs we shared we weren't friends for too long. After all, good films hide people in the folds of their memories.

It's been weeks; my film is back with more to add. "Go home if you feel too small. Or stay, you can fill the whole screen with me." Sure, film is a visual medium.

THURSDAY, JUNE 12

Films from Texas

WILLIE VARELA IN PERSON

With more than 25 films in distribution Willie Varela is one of the most prolific filmmakers on the scene. Working exclusively in super-8, Varela has done more than any other young filmmaker to develop the full potential of that medium. Because his films are so personal they have a strong relationship with the films of Stan Brakhage.

Of his work at the Southwest Alternate Media Project in El Paso Jane Brakhage has said, "Willie has created an oasis in the desert." Which also could be said of his films. His visions and ecstacies are nurtured in the desert light. He weaves color, texture and movement present in his daily life and in his travels into short, gemlike silent statements captured thru a sensitive and energetic camera eye.

For his second one-man show here at the Cinematheque he will show:
CACTUS DIARIES 2,3 &4, ALBUQUERQUE DIARY, SAN FRANCISCO DIARY, LEAVES OF GLASS, APRIL 1977, NOV. 1978, MARCH 1979, CIRCUS SKETCHES, REACHING FOR THE MOON, 3 SUMMER STUDIES, 3 HOME MOVIES, LA MISERIA, THE RED CIRCLE, & others.

SATURDAY, JUNE 14

WORD, SOUND AND POWER

JERRY STEIN IN PERSON

WORD SOUND AND POWER (1980) 65min. - Directed and edited by Jerry Stein, cinematography by Jerry Stein & John Swaby, sound by Jeff Roth; with The Soul Syndicate & Earl Zero.

"Despite the enormous and persistent cult success of Perry Henzell's THE HARDER THEY COME, very little about the Jamaican culture of reggae music and Rastafarianism - which can be called politics, religion or mysticism, depending on who is doing the calling - has reached American screens. WORD SOUND AND POWER is a documentary about the Soul Syndicate, Jamaica's finest group reggae instrumentalists (they have provided the backing on records by Bob Marley and the Wailers, Toots and the Maytals, the Heptones, Burning Spear, Jimmy Cliff and many others)...

"The film shifts back and forth between the band as an ensemble, playing in the open air in a Kingston courtyard, and individual members talking telling tales, stating philosophy. ...the music begins to seem of a piece with the Jamaican landscape - and with the Rastafarian faith in a deliverance from "Babylon" that gives so much of the conversation in the film its prophetic edge. Finally, though, it is the music that gives that prophecy power..."

Also: BOB MARLEY SHORT
Doug Wendt's DUB FILM

THREE SHOWS: 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00

SUNDAY, JUNE 15

Sound Activated Films

ANDREJ ZDRAVIC IN PERSON

In an age when an academic post-structuralist syndrome dominates the under-30 film scene the films of Andrej Zdravic have almost single-handedly held the fort on the lyric front. His 16mm films did much to expand the perimeters established by Brakhage by their directness in the pursuit of light, color and movement. Gradually sound as 50% of what film can be became an important component of his work. This gradually led him into super-8 which has much more fidelity than 16mm and the possibility of stereo. Because very few houses (including our own) have systems which can adequately present his programs he travels with his own high quality projection system. Our program will include:

VIA SOUND (1978) 24 min. - "a string of 'short stories' from a recent trip to Yugoslavia. ...THE SOUND is totally unobtrusive. It doesn't invade our privacy but eases us into the comfort of Zdravic's postcard pretty imagery. We hear the jet engines roar as we gaze at the clouds from the plane window, the children giggle and laugh as we pass through the clothesline and laundry strewn alleyways, the surf pounds, the sea gently licks the shore like molten silver on ruby sands, a spider tenderly spins a perfectly circular web to the strains of a nearby bird.

"...Zdravic has succeeded in condensing time to create one clear-cut, coherent impression of his 'little observations.' As in NEW YORK his concern with motion, shadow and light is more than obvious. But for an experiment, VIA SOUND is awfully successful." - Brenda Preisner, Buffalo Evening News

Also: HOME (1979) 17min.
JUGO (1979) 40 min.

THURSDAY, JUNE 19

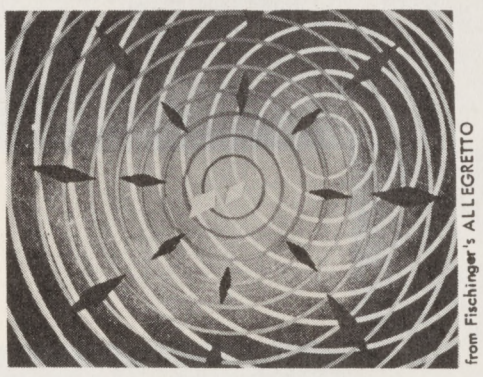
Gay Film Festival

The San Francisco Gay Film Festival has been established by Frameline, a non-profit gay film collective, as a showcase for recent gay cinema. The festival attempts to give an overall view of the diversity of lifestyles, talents and art in the gay community and provides exposure for the work of gay filmmakers. Films for this program will be selected from entries submitted from several countries and throughout the U.S. For more information contact Frameline, 150 Eureka st., San Francisco, CA 94114

Tony Conrad

Earl Zero & Jerry Stein

from KARAGOEZ ET LES BRULEURS D'ERBES PARFUMES by Ricci Lucchi & Gianikian



from Fischinger's ALLEGRETTO

SUNDAY JUNE 22

TIM KENNEDY'S SPECTRAL THEATRE
PRESENTS: EPISODE THREE FROM
THE ADVENTURES OF SKY BABY
"THE MAN WHO FELL ASLEEP"

"Won't you come into the garden?
I would like my roses to see you."

- To a young lady from THE MAN WHO FELL ASLEEP

THURSDAY, JUNE 26

CARRIAGE TRADE

WARREN SONBERT IN PERSON

"Warren Sonbert's CARRIAGE TRADE (1972 - 61min.) has had an underground reputation as one of the most original and beautiful films of the current avant garde. In a startling juxtaposition of familiar imagery CARRIAGE TRADE takes us on a super-saturated trip to such locales as Afganistan, Iran, Tunisia, Nepal, Egypt - and New York. It is so rich and intense a visual experience that words are hardly a match to its exquisite imagery. Thousands of jewel-like shots from dozens of countries are edited in an almost subliminal way to create a magical array of images that Sonbert's camera-eye transforms into an experience that is full of filmic wonder and vitality. The forms, locales and people of the world take on new dimension and our eyes seem to be seeing them for the first time. CARRIAGE TRADE is, without question, one of the unique cinematic achievements of the seventies." Whitney Museum of American Art

SUNDAY, JUNE 29

SPYING

JOE GIBBONS IN PERSON

Now in its completed state this will be the first Bay-Area screening since its premiere in New York last winter. The film impressed J. Hoberman enough to include it on his "Ten Best" list of 1979 in the Soho Weekly News.

"...This Bay Area filmmaker whose works, e.g. PUNCHING FLOWERS purport to show Nature "who's boss", was preceded here by a word-of-mouth rep as an artworld madman: In 1977 he pilfered a Diebenkorn off the wall of the Oakland Museum, returned the painting, and held the frame for ransom. SPYING (1979), which Gibbons screened at the Collective on December 14, proved to be a silent, 65-minute exercise in applied voyeurism - a hilariously perverse MAN WITH A MOVIE CAMERA - in which the filmmaker secretly observes his neighbors (and their pets) sunbathing, gardening, or gazing out their windows. The sexual tension in Gibbon's scopophilic essay turns overt by the film's end, when he intercuts murky porn sequences filmed off the screens of Market Street grind theatres into the more innocent activities." J. Hoberman, Soho Weekly News

THURSDAY, JULY 3

The Scented Films

YERVANT GIANIKIAN &
ANGELA RICCI LUCCHI IN PERSON

In their first West Coast tour, Italian filmmakers Angela Ricci Lucchi and Yervant Gianikian present a selection of their astounding "scented" films. Since the late 60's Lucchi and Gianikian have catalogued hundreds of scents and essences, which they emit with their films to run parallel to the images as another 'presence.' Their primary concern, beyond the mere association of visual images with the sense of smell has been the exploration of participants' emotional reactions to various scents, or the use of scents to 'reawaken distant memory cells.' To present these films they have constructed a complex apparatus capable of evaporating and expanding their scents in a theatre setting. Works to be shown include: LOMBROSCO - scent of carnation PERFUME (various scents and odors), WLADIMIR PROPP -wolf smell, and ALICE SCENTED WITH ROSE.

SUNDAY, JULY 6

THUNDERCRACK

CURT McDOWELL IN PERSON

"With its Von Sternberg-style ciaroscuro photography, wildly overwritten script and sexually ambidextrous cast, THUNDERCRACK (1975) is easily a film the likes of which you've never seen before. A comic concoction suggesting a collaboration between Tennessee Williams and Al Capone, a re-make of THE OLD DARK HOUSE (with an assist from the Gage Brothers for sex) it's offset by the extraordinary performance (both hilarious and moving) of McDowell discovery, Marion Eaton.

"...'I'd made a straight porn film that was a success on that circuit, and my friends and I began to think about using sex in a different way, ...I'm gay and my friend Mark is straight. We made up characters and situations so that we'd have a real mixture.' The results were then handed to fabled 'avant garde' wild man and long-time collaborator George Kuchar. According to McDowell, "Basically the script is Mark's and mine. George added Guilt and circus animals."
-David Ehrenstein, L.A. Hearld Examiner

We will be showing the rarely seen 2 hr. version of this film.

THURSDAY JULY 10

OLD HOUSE PASSING
ANTICIPATION OF THE NIGHT

LARRY JORDAN—STAN BRAKHAGE

ANTICIPATION OF THE NIGHT (1958) 42min. byStan Brakhage
THE OLD HOUSE PASSING (1967) 45min. by Larry Jordan

Little needs to be said of these two films except they are both acclaimed masterpieces of the avant garde and both have had a profound influence on what has become the tradition of personal filmmaking in America. Neither film has shown in San Francisco for many years.

One short quote from Robert Nelson on OLD HOUSE PASSING:

"...It is pure cinematic poetry. The powerful evocations of the dark forces in our lives are unfolded and displayed with absolute surity and absolute artistry... and the word for that is 'masterpiece.'

FRIDAY, JULY 12
Open Screening
Bring your own

SUNDAY, JULY 13

Movies Out of Thin Air

WILLIAM K. EVERSON IN PERSON

"In the 30's & 40's, both independent companies and major studios frequently (and economically) made new movies out of the highlights of old, often with extreme ingenuity in designing new scenes, or writing new dialogue, to match new material shot up to 25 years earlier! In this fascinating (and hilarious) survey you'll see Cary Grant, Claude Rains, Richard Arlen & other stars acting and intercut with cans of old footage, often of recognizably classic stature. To be shown in its entirety is the piece-de-resistance of this genre, 1945's THE WHITE GORILLA, in which a handful of down-on-their-luck actors, one set, a few rocks and trees, a couple of gorilla skins and reels of silent serial footage are turned into a film which is a masterpiece of its kind." - W.K.E.

THURSDAY, JULY 17

SUNSHINE SISTERS & 2 more

GEORGE KUCHAR IN PERSON

This program features three vintage Kuchar films not shown in these environs in many years. Two are from his New York period starring Donna Kerness & Bob Cowan, and his first San Francisco film, SUNSHINE SISTERS, starring Jan Lash and Ainslie Pryor. Our program will consist of:

SUNSHINE SISTERS 36 min.
THE MAMAL PALACE 31 min.
PAGAN RHAPSODY 24 min.

SUNDAY, JULY 20

ON THE MARRIAGE BROKER JOKE...

GEORGE LANDOW IN PERSON

George Landow returns to the Bay Area for an exclusive screening at the Cinematheque of his 30 minute work-in-progress, ON THE MARRIAGE BROKER JOKES AS CITED BY SIGMUND FREUD IN WIT AND ITS RELATION TO THE UNCONSCIOUS, OR CAN THE AVANT GARDE ARTIST BE WHOLED. Of this film Amy Taubin has written in Soho Weekly News - "It is the most disorienting, ecstatic, condensed, hilarious film you've ever made. It's also explicitly erotic. It's so much like my erotic dreams."

Also on this evening's program will be a selection of his earlier films including among others: WIDE ANGLE SAXON (22 min.), REMEDIAL READING COMPREHENSION (6 min.), NO SIR ORISON (3 min.) and NEW IMPROVED INSTITUTIONAL QUALITY...(10 min.)

THURSDAY, JULY 24

Recent Films

TOM BRENER IN PERSON

It has been over two years since Tom Brener's last appearance. He has been teaching at Bard College in N.Y. state and completing new films some of which will have their first public screening here at the Cinematheque. Our program will include the following: SILENT AND SOUND SECTIONS, CHALK PATHS, FIGURES AND MONUMENTS FOR CHICAGO, TRI-COLOR-LAST, UNLEARNING TRIALS and 6 CORNERS. He has supplied the following writing on this group of films:

"The studies (last 2 films) seem to lean and throw emphasis (like a crowded subway) on the other parts. In a way, its like the editing of shots - stacking rhythmic parts to complete a movement or sentence. Thinking about the list of films I have come up with a list of subjects: Navigation & location, coincidences, learning & rhythm color and image, technique."

FRIDAY, JULY 25

The Films of Oskar Fishinger

ELFRIDE FISHINGER IN PERSON

OBJECTS IN A NON-OBJECTIVE WORLD: OSKAR FISHINGER

"The potential of audio-visual art as a synthesis of painting, sculpture and music has been sought for by many filmmakers. The protean career (1900-67) of Oskar Fishinger stands as a monumental and passionate exploration into the uncharted spaces of non-figurative moving-image art. He dreamed...and acted upon...the dynamics of film achieving a universal language of trancendental aesthetic communication. His spiritual life-search was inextricably fused with and reflected by his screen work. The meticulous structuring of his abstract imagery was often determined by Tantric and Yogic phrasings of force, energy and direction. In his films as with his paintings, objects inhabit a 'cosmic' space; where scale is at once both molecular and galactic. This program will include among others:

R-1 (1927), PIERETTE #1 (1924), STUDY #6 (1930), SPIRITUAL CONSTRUCTIONS (1927), MUNCHEN-BERLIN WANDERUNG (1927), LIEBESSPIEL (1931) STUDY #9 (1931), MURATTI PRIVAT (1935), ALLEGRETTO (1924), RADIO DYNAMICS (1942) SYNTHETIC SOUND (1932), AMERICAN MARCH (1941), MOTION PAINTING #1

Elfride Fischinger has aided, abetted and collaborated with her late husband throughout the span of his artistic work from Germany to California, and vividly presents the creative background of the making of the films." - Anthony Reveaux

SUNDAY, JULY 27

William K. Everson Presents

The Films of Charlie Chase

For his second appearanct at the Cinematheque film historian, William K. Everson has put together 2hrs. & 20 minutes of extremely rare short comedies by Charley Chase who Hal Roach still considers as writer, director and comedian - the most inventive creator of comedy that ever worked for him, not even excluding Stan Laurel.

THURSDAY, JULY 31

The Films of Michael Rudnick

MICHAEL RUDNICK IN PERSON

Michael Rudnick has been making films in the Bay Area for the past ten years. The program tonight includes films made between 1977 and the present, a number of these being premieres:

ONDEO (1980) - Spanish for 'waving, rippling, swaying flickering'
4:59 A.M. - a walking dream
YOUR INNER MISSION (1980) - with Rock Ross. The beautiful prima Bagel in this bagel ballet production of SWAN LAKE
MOLD (1980)- A film that made itlself.
CLEO (1977) - Story of my old and dying family dog.
COLUMBUS DAY ON BROADWAY (1978)
YOU ARE CHRISTINE DIETRICH (1977)
PUP Y PUP (1977)
AN OLD COAT FLAPPING (1977)
SKETCHES 1-5 (1978)
THE UNUSUAL PROPERTIES OF LIQUID HELIUM (1977) - winner, S.F. International Filmfestival. About the filmmaker's father doing research.

This program is supported in part by grants from the San Francisco Hotel Tax fund, the California Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts, a Federal Agency.

To receive our posters in the mail, send your name, address and zip code to: Cinematheque mailing list/Foundation for Art in Cinema/339 Head st./ San Francisco, CA 94132

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